GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4466
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
TERMINATION OF LEASE OF THE BUILDING
RAM CHANDRA DOME

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the staff strength of the erstwhile India Trade Centre(ITC)at Brussels was reduced in October, 1995 and merged with the Commerce Wing of the Embassy;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Embassy at Brussels did not terminate the lease of the building occupied by ITC and thereby incurred a wasteful expenditure of Rs. 88.22 lakh on rent; and

(d) If so, the Government`s reaction thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Staff strength of the erstwhile India Trade Centre(ITC)was reduced from 11 to 9 in October 1995. However, actual merger took place in May 1996.

(c)&(d) ITC was accommodated in a rented building till December 2000 as the main Chancery building did not have enough space to accommodate the ITC personnel. Since July 2001, after additional space was constructed in the Chancery premises, the Commercial Wing including the reduced staff of the erstwhile ITC has been functioning from there.